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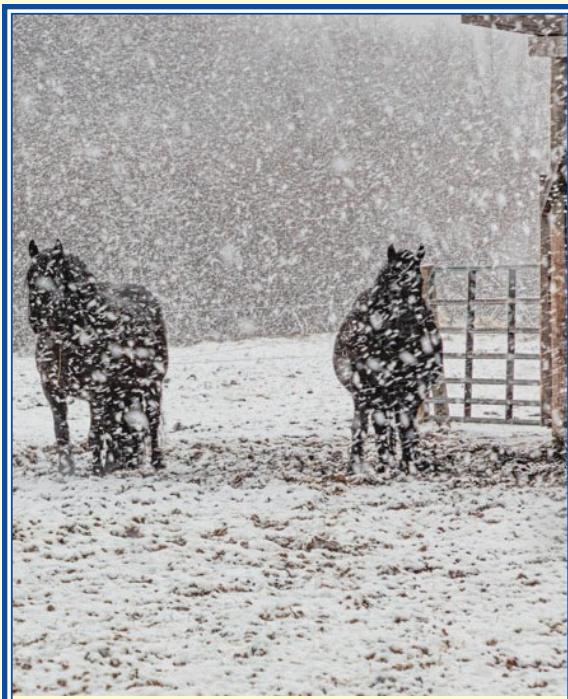
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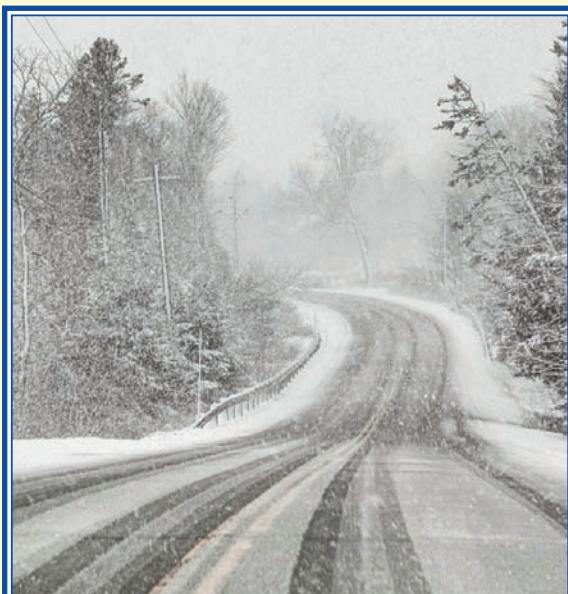
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These horses seem to be enjoying an early April snowstorm. Perhaps a time to get freshened up for spring. The horses looked at me as if asking for an explanation.
(Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)



We don't like slippery roads and any time, but early April storms bring the wettest snowfalls, and this year is no different. Roads were slick and at times visibility was limited.
(Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)



Although April Fool's Day was behind us today was quite a surprise in the intensity of the snow and windstorm. It might not have required snowplow operators, but this early April storm created some dreary condition on Main Street, Parrsboro. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

Strategic Plan Designed to Improve Healthcare

By Maurice Rees

During the 2021 election campaign, now premier Tim Houston's most consistent message was he would fix healthcare. On April 22, the government's strategic plan was released. The strategic plan is designed to address recent and long-standing problems in acute and primary care, long-term care, addictions and mental health and the factors that affect the well-being of Nova Scotians every day.

"The message we've heard over and over again is clear - change is needed to provide

better health and better healthcare for Nova Scotians and to support and respect the people who work in the system," said Premier Tim Houston in announcing the plan on April 22. "This is a turning point for Nova Scotia. As we move from identifying problems to fixing them, I am confident we are heading in the right direction because we are guided by input from those who know the system best."

The plan is focused on creating a system where Nova Scotians can access world-class healthcare in a timely

manner and health providers are respected, valued and heard. It commits to improving diversity and equity throughout the system.

Action for Health is the Province's response to the Speak Up For Healthcare Tour - listening sessions with health leaders and providers held last fall - and feedback from Nova Scotians on doorsteps, over coffee and in boardrooms during the past few years.

These sessions identified three core issues: recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals; access to care and outdated infrastructure,

both physical and digital.

To fix the problems in those areas, the plan presents six broad solutions and the objectives and actions required for each. The Province will become a magnet for health providers; provide the care Nova Scotians need and deserve; cultivate excellence on the frontlines; build in accountability at every level; be responsive and resilient and address the factors affecting health and well-being.

Action for Health is available at: <https://novascotia.ca/action-forhealth>

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Luckily the highest tide was on April 18th two days before this photo was taken, but the onshore winds still brewed impressive waves. The cottages and beach were under attack, and Mother Nature was unrelenting. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

6 Cumberland Projects Approved by Council

Springhill, N.S. - Council met in person on Wednesday, March 30, 2022. The meeting opened with a territorial acknowledgement. Council awarded a contract for the Clear the Deck review, RFP-MCC-2204, to Cox and Palmer at a value of \$265,775 plus tax.

Six projects were approved by council for submission to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. They are: Junction Road Infrastructure Renewal; Parrsboro Waterline Replacement; Athol Road Waterline Replacement; Parrsboro Stormwater Separation; Springhill Main Street Infrastructure Renewal and Wallace

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade.

A resolution was passed to participate in the Municipal Finance Corporation's 2022 spring debenture issue to refinance a balloon payment originally for Springhill Water Utility. This will be \$690,205 balloon payment over a five-year term.

Two rezoning applications

were subject to first readings. One property is located at 1713 Fenwick Rd., Fenwick, with the request to rezone a portion from rural resource to commercial recreation. The second property is located at 207 Spencer Island Rd., Spencer Island, with the request to rezone from country residential to commercial recreation.

At the February council meeting, staff were directed to create the appropriate amendments and documentation for further review regarding commercial development districts. Commercial development districts along with a tax phase in by-law is a method to phase in the effect of increased property assessments on new commercial capital investments in specified areas, that are serviced with municipal sewer and water, to encourage growth. Council approved first reading of the amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) enabling commercial development districts on a commercial or industrial

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